

REMARKS

With this amendment, claims 1-5 and 7-9 remain pending in the present application. Claim 6 has been canceled. Claims 1-5 and 9 have been amended and are supported by, for example, the subject matter of canceled claim 6.

The Applicant has carefully and thoughtfully considered the Final Office Action and the comments therein. For the reasons given below, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

I. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

On pages 2-3, section 2, the Office Action rejects claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants have amended claims 1-5 and 9 to overcome this rejection. Applicants therefore request that this rejection be withdrawn.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

On pages 3-4, section 4, the Office Action rejects claims 3-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regard as the invention. Applicants have amended claims 3-5 to overcome this rejection. Applicants therefore request that this rejection be withdrawn.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-8 have not been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Applicants thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to include the subject matter similar to that of canceled dependent claim 6. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that amended claims 1 and 9 be allowed.

IV. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

On pages 4-6, section 6, the Office Action rejects claims 1 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,586,126 to Yoder (hereinafter Yoder).

The rejection of claims 1 and 9 have been rendered moot by the above amendments.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the above rejection of claims 1 and 9 be withdrawn and that claims 1 and 9 be allowed.

V. Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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